



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tres Rios Field Office  
2921 I Highway 184  
Dolores, Colorado 81323



In Reply Refer to:  
1610 (COS01000)

March 8, 2016

Dear Interested Parties:

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO), Dolores, Colorado intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) to the 2015 Tres Rios RMP with an associated Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider designation of potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This notice is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. You are receiving this letter because you have been identified as having an interest in the associated areas or activities. The amendment planning area is located in Dolores, Montezuma, Montrose, San Juan, and San Miguel counties in southwest Colorado and encompasses approximately 130,000 acres of federal surface public land. The BLM is considering amending the Tres Rios RMP to address 18 areas found to have relevance and importance consistent with BLM Manual 1613 – Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The RMP Amendment and associated EA will evaluate these areas to determine if they should be designated as an ACEC, and if so, what management prescriptions are necessary to protect the relevant and important values of each area. There are suitable Wild and Scenic River segments and lands with wilderness characteristics within the nominated ACEC areas. These resources will be considered throughout the analysis process.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. The purpose of the RMPA/EA is to address a procedural error in the Tres Rios RMP process in which the BLM did not adequately analyze the designation of several areas that met the relevance and importance criteria for ACECs. See the plan amendment website at [www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Information/nepa/TRFO\\_NEPA.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Information/nepa/TRFO_NEPA.html) to view maps and additional information on the previously nominated areas being considered.

This letter also requests your comments, if any, on the potential effects to historic properties. This request is made to satisfy consultation requirements with local governments pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Comments on issues and planning criteria regarding the project should be submitted via email or hard copy by May 4, 2016 to:

BLM TRFO C/O SWDO  
Attn: Gina Jones  
2465 S. Townsend Ave,  
Montrose, CO 81401  
or [him\\_co\\_trfo\\_acec@blm.gov](mailto:him_co_trfo_acec@blm.gov)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gina Jones, District NEPA Coordinator, in writing at 2465 S. Townsend Ave, Montrose, CO 81401 or via email at [BLM\\_CO\\_TRFO\\_ACEC@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_CO_TRFO_ACEC@blm.gov). She may also be reached by phone at 970-240-5381.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment -including your personally identifiable information -may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personally identifiable information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sincerely,

IS/Connie Clementson

Connie Clementson  
Field Manager